TRAPS FOR IMPORTERS.

THE CHAMPAGNE CONSPIRACY. THE FIRST GREAT CASE "MADE UP FOR COMPRO-MISE"-ITS INCEPTION, PREPARATION, AND RE-BULTS - DESTRUCTION OF THE TRADE - WHAT SPECIAL AGENTS ARE NOW DOING - A GREAT

GOVERNMENT CASE. It was shown in an article recently published In The TRIBUNE that the system of Special Agents of the Treasury to investigate and prosecute frauds upon the revenue is one of comparatively recent organization, and which has found its full development under the act of 1853 and its amendments, and that these acts form no part of the system of laws for the imposition and the collection of the revenue from customs, but are an excrescence upon that system which ought to be remeyed. The practical effect of these laws and their utility and propriety can be best judged of and illus trated in their practical operation in cases of a special

The first subject to which the enterprise of these special agents was directed after the passage of the act of 1863, was the importation of champagne. It was probably true that the inviting prospect which this importatation offered was the principal motive of these agents

in procuring the passage of the law. THE OFFORTUNITY.

The importation of champagne to America presented some peculiar features and scircumstances not involved in ordinary importations from foreign countries. The district of country in which champarne is produced is comparatively small, the number of houses engaged in its production few, and the wine itself is prepared for special markets. Champagne wines exported to this country are soldon sent elsewhere. They are pre-pared with special reference to the American market, and there is little demand for them countries, almost none at all in the country of their production. There were, therefore, no facts or circumstances fixing their market value at the place of production, for there were no sales at that place. Most of the houses had agents in this country to whom they sent all the wines produced by them for sale here. The fixing of their market value at the place of exportation had always been attended with difficulties, so great, in fact, that various attempts had been made by the importers of these wines to agree with the Government upon a rate of valuation of the different classes, which would be satisfactory both to the Government and the importer. This rate had been fixed for some years, after consultation between the importers and officers of the Government specially appointed for that purpose, and almost every importer of champagne supposed that no departure from those rates would be attempted by the Government, at all evenis without full notice to them. This agreement was in full force, was in writing, was lodged in the Customhouse at New-York, at the time the special accents of the Treasury began operations under the law of 1803.

HOW THE TRAP WAS BAITED. Shortly after the passage of that act, a bureau was established in Paris called the Special Agency of the Treasury of the United States, under the general direction of the individual who inspired the net 1963. It was in fact the place where the system of eten countries first began. Its operations were revenue, both upon the Atlantic and Pacific consts. From that office in Paris decoy letters were sent out mailed at Liverpool and other places remote from each other, inquiring of the profucers of champagne, the lowest prices for their wines for exportation, not to the United States, but to Mexi-South America and other places, with which the writers pretended to be in communication, and where they pretended to have facilities for creating a The champagne producers of course had not the slightest suspicion that these letters and any possible connection with their dealings with the United States, but supposed that they were, as they honestly desiring to purchase their wines. They did not respond favorably in the first instance, and it was only by a reputition of these letters, with their state ments of prospective gains and profits, that some of them at length consented to name a price at which they would all small orders for the markets proposed. The sales were wholly exceptional and experimental, made to strangers, and under circumstances showing that the purchasers cared little for the price. which was to be settled flually after the experiment had been tried. In this manner a few baskets of champagne were purchased from time to time, and sent to the places ordered in these letters. After a reasonable time had claused, sufficient to ship them to South America or Mexico, other letters were written, showing the success and profit which had attended the former shipment, the popularity of the wines in the new murket, accompanied with a request for the reputition of the order. These producers also had agents in Paris and Landon for the sale of their other wines. Requests were made to these agents for price-lists showing the price at which they would under-America, to go to other countries. These requests were almost always accompanied by statements from the agents that the proposed purchasers could buy cheaper by going directly to the producers. The purchases being small, of course the price was much higher than the rate at which large quantities could have been procured in the champagne country. In all these cases the purchasers were careful to procure bills of sale or invoices showing the rates and prices of the different classes of wines. In not one of these cases had the wine-producers or their agents the slightest knowledge that the proposed purchasers were other than what they profess be, that they were in any manner acting for or in behalf of the United States, or that these exceptional sales would have the ramotest possible reference to their im-pertations of wines into this country.

THE TRAP SPRUNG.

After all these evidences had been carefully procured, invoices and propositions received from all the promipent houses in the champagne trade, and the conspir acy thoroughly worked up and perfected, upon one day and without the slightest notice or premonition to th importers and their agents, every basket of champagne, in bond or in the Custom-house, from Maine to Orieans, and on the Pacific coast, was seized by the ers and special agents of the revenue, for underval nation upon the evidence thus procured. The quantity seized was enormous. Proclamation was instantly made that the evidence showing the undervaluation was complete and perfect. The seizure was timed just at the beginning of the annual demand for the wines, and the consequences of this seizure were almost the destruction of the champagne trade. It was immediately and completely arrested. The business of every dealer stopped as suddenly as if it had been struck by lightning. The amount of capital invested was so large that the mere suspension of the business for a period of six months was itself enough to ruin the agents of the importers, and, in many cases, the importers themselves. Some of these houses which were thus stricken down have never recovered from the shock. Some of the agents were driven into insolveney, and cases actually occurred in which they were driven to insanity. Some of them are known to have died in

insane asylums. THE MARVEST OF THE SPECIAL AGENTS. A fruitful barvest for the special agents of the Treasury immediately began. The alternative presented to the owners was compromise or ruin. Some of the cases were compromised without the slightest reference to the evidence, the owners acceding to the best terms they could possibly procure. In some cases, where the owners had sufficient ability, the wines were bonded and sults for their condemnation instituted, but it was three or four years after the setzure before the suits in New-York could be brought to trial. One of them was brought to trial in the year 1867. The laws had been carefully framed so as to give the seizing officers all the advantage possible. They acted under the direction of the Treasury of the United States, and had all the power and money of the Government to back them. The courts had no alternative but to administer the law in all its strictness, as it had been declared by; Congress. The ablest counsel were retained in behalf of the Government, and after a long and arddous trial, the result was, not the condemnation of the wines, but a disagreement of the jury. The final end of the whole matter was that the merchants, half ruined by the selzure, exhausted by the annoyance, delay, and expense of the law, tired of fighting with the whole power of the Government, at length compromised the matter.

A GREAT GOVERNMENT'S TRANSACTIONS. This case may be left without comment. The simple facts are that importers who had agreed with the appraisers of the Government of the United States upon the valnation of their imports, and acting with the most perfeet good faith upon that agreement in all their importations, were subjected to this experience. Privately and secretly the agents of a great government, at its expense and presomably under its direction, set to work by the use of decoy letters and other practices, which in private life would be deemed fraudulent and disgrace-ful to lead these importers into making sales which would make it possible for the officers of the Government to seize their entire importations. If such a transon as this ever occurred under any system in any

other country than the United States, its history has not But the practice then instituted has been continued ever since, and upon a system which has been enlarged every year. At this very moment agents of the United States, calling themselves special agents of the Treasury, are in Europe, repeating the practices of their predecessors in 164. Their business is to corrupt the foreign buryers, clerks, and agents of American importers, to write decoy letters, to precure by practices which ought to subject them to the contempt of all honorable men, evidence which will enable them, at some future time, to make other seizures upon a like extensive scale. How hour these practices shall be permitted to exist, and this system be permitted to disgrace the country, is a question for the future alone to answer. But the practice then instituted has been continued

A RAILROAD LAW FOR THE TERRITORIES.

SENATOR STEWART'S BILL TO INCORPORATE AND REGULATE EAILEOAD COMPANIES IN THE TERRI-TORIES-ITS PRIVILEGES AND RESTRICTIONS-THE RIGHT OF WAY THROUGH PUBLIC LANDS.

Senator Stewart introduced on the 26th of January a bill "to provide for the incorporation and regulation of railroad companies in the Territories of the United States," which was referred to the Committee on Railroads. The bill was subsequently reported by Mr. Stewart, with amendments, and placed on the calendar. It was reached on Wednesday last by the Senate in Committee of the Whole, and on following days several amendments were made. The most important of these were those striking out the twenty-first section, which gave to reads organized under State laws the same privileges with respect to unoccupied public lands as roads organized under the bill, changing the grants of land for stations, etc., from 40 to 16 acres for every 10 miles of road, and inserting a provise that the bill should not apply to the District of Columbia. On Friday the Ser ate amended the bill still further. Among the amendments was one forbidding any road to cross an Indian reservation; another giving Congress power to amend, alter, or repeal the act whenever the public good requires it, and giving new States the same power within their own territory; and two more providing that a majority of the persons applying for a charter must be residents of the Territory or Territories in which the road shall not be less than \$10,000 a mile. Pending far ther action upon the bill the Senate went into Ex-

ther action upon the bill the Senate went into Executive Session and soon after adjourned. The abovementioned amendments are mostly additions to the bill,
and make little change in the original text. The principal features of the bill, as reported from the Committee,
may be summarized as follows:

Any number of persons not less than five may become
a body corporate for the purpose of locating, constructing, maintaining, and operating a railroad in any of the
Territories, except the Indian Territory, upon complying
with the provisions of the bill. The charter of such cortorations, provisions for the obtaining of which are
made in Sections 2 and 3, is finited to 50 years from the
date of its certificate. Authority is given by Section 4
to construct a single or double track, and such side
tracks, turn-outs, shops, offices, and depots as may be
deemed necessary. The cantial stock is to consist of
such sum as is named in the certificate, the shares to be
regarded as personal property, subject to execution at
law. Ten per cent must be paid in money on each share
at the time of subscription. The remainder is to be
paid at the principal office in such installments, not at the time of subscription. The remainder is to t paid at the principal office in such installments, no exceeding 10 per cent on each share, as the director paid at the principal office in such installments, not exceeding 10 per cent on each share, as the directors may prescribe; payments, nowever, must not be called for officer than once in three months. Provision is made in Section 6 for the collection of defaults by action at law or the sale of the stock by action at law or the sale of the stock by action at law or the sale of the stock by action at law or the sale of the stock by action for public and written notice being given in all cases of default. The opening of subscription books and the election of officers is provided for in section 7. Section 8 grants the right of way through the public lands to any railroad corporation the non-porated under this act to the extent of 150 feet in whith on each side of the center of the railroad, and also gives the corporation the authority to take from the public lands adjacent to the line of the road material of earth, stone, tinaber, and water necessary for its construction and maintenance. Ground not exceeding 40 acres for every 10 miles of road is also granted for station buildings, work-shops, depote, machine-shops, switches, side tracks, turn-tables, and water stations—mineral, homestead, and precapited index stations—mineral, homestead, and precapited to unoccupied public lands are given to railroads organized under any State laws.

For the purpose of securing private lands and premises for the construction of the road, such corporation is empowered to enter apon, purchase, take, and hold such as may be necessary, not exceeding in width 100 feet on each side of the center into of the road, unless more is needed for excavations or embankments. An thority is also given to cut and remove such trees and other material that might, by falling, incumber its road-leed, though being more than 100 feet from it. Provision is made in the same section 9 for the payment of the the corporation to lands taken under the bill, it is provided, shall not be affected nor impaired by reason of any failure by any guardian to discharge

damages done to such lands or premises. The title of the corporation to lands taken under the lifl, it is provided, shall not be affected nor impaired by reason of any failure by any guardian to discharge faithfully his trust. The right of way of one corporation through any cañon, pass, or detile shall not exclude any other corporation from a passage of the same upon equitable terms. In case of creater of the Interior. The time of beginning work on the road is limited to one year from the date of its certificate; at least ten miles must be graded every year, and the entire line completed within ten years Failing to comply with these provisious, the corporation shall torieit its charfer and all the fights and privileges conferred by the bill as to any uncompleted portion of its road. Bonds, secured by mortgage or pledge of property and income, may be executed to the amount of its capital stock. When necessary to build a bridge over a navigable stream, it shall be done subject to regulations made by the Secretary of War; such bridge shall be recognized as a post route. Every road incorporated under the bill is required to make an annual report to the Secretary of the Interior, showing the amount of the capital stock of such company among any superished and the amount actually paid in, the make an annual report to the Secretary of the Interior, showing the amount of the capital stock of such company subscribed and the amount actually paid in, the gross amount of receipts, and the respective sources thereof, during the previous year, the amount of road graded, the amount constructed, the cost of construction per mile, and of repairs and incidental expenses, the net amount of profits, the dividends made, and the debts and llabilities, with such other facts as may be necessary to a full statement of the affairs and condition of the road. Provision is made for giving the privileges of the bull to railroads organized under Territorial laws. Right to construct, maintain, and operate a telegraph on the line of its road is also given to the corporations.

A MAN WITH A HISTORY.

The California Legislature lately passed a bill to remove the legal disabilities of Mr. Henry Meiggs, the "Railway King" of Peru. Meiggs went away from California under peculiar circumstances. The lustory of the case was thus related by Assemblyman J. F. Swift

the "Railway King" of Peru. Meiges went away from California under peculiar circumstances. The instory of the case was thus related by Assemblyman J. F. Swift during a debate on the bill:

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman whose name is in this bill, Henry Menges, was a resident and merchant of San Francisco from about the year 1845 to 1854. He came to this State, as most of us did, to seek his fortune. His proportunities were as good as those of any of us. He was a man of intelligence and education; a man of more than ordinary ability; a man who should have been as capable of making his way in the world as perhaps any man in the State, then or since. From 1849 antil 1854 he engaged in mercantile pursuits, his business cach year branching out and becoming more extended, until, in the year 1851-52-53, he was among the most prominent men in business in this State. His establishments extended throughout the State, and he was engaged in many and diverse kinds of business. Some time in 1854 it suddenly became known to the public that Henry Meizes had fitted out a vessel, had freighted it, had placed his family—and, if I recollect right, his brother's family—on locard that ship, and had quietly and secretly weighed anchor and sained away; and subsequently was developed the fact that a series of crimes had been committed, chiefly, I believe, in the nature of forgery; that bonds, if I recollect right, or perhaps warrants, or some such thing, to a very large extent, had been forged. Of the truth of those charges I know bothing. The ship that contained this precious cargo found its way first to Australia, and there taey remained for some time; but not flading that place to their satisfaction, again they made a removo, and were next heard of in the Populic of Chili. Very soon after that it became noised about through the country, in his old home, here in California, that Menges, was becoming a very proniment man, that he was a man who had contracts with the Government—a great developer of the resources of the State, a builder of during a debate on the bill :

ccase to be asuamed of.

ROOFING FRAUDS.

A SERIES OF DISCREPANCIES IN GOVERN-

MENT ACCOUNTS. ONE PRICE PAID AND ANOTHER CHARGED FOR THE ROOFING MATERIALS OF GOVERNMENT BUILD-INGS-COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE TWO SETS OF FIGURES-INSTANCES THAT LOOK AS IF SOME ACCOUNTS WERE TWICE CHARGED TO THE GOV-ERNMENT.

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. Washington, March 12.—The Treasury Department has had for several years a contract with the Vaux Patent Anti-Freezing Pipe and Roofing Company, Alex. R. Shepherd, Treasurer, to cover the roofs of Government buildings. The terms of this contract have been that the United States should pay the cost of all labor and material expended on the roof, and should give to Mr. Shepherd's Company 15 per cent of the gross amount for its profit, besides \$5 royalty on each "square" of the corrugated work. Under this contract the Company covered the roof of the Marine Hospital in Chicago in 1872, buying most of the material for the work in New-York of the Ansonia Brass and Copper Company. The original bills for this material are, or were, on the 15th of December, 1873, on file in the office of the Superintendent o Construction of the U. S. Custom-house and Post-Office at Chicago. From sworn copies of them now in my possession I transcribe tue following, which is the first bill of material purchased and shipped to Chicago for the Marine Hospital roof, and the records of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway Company in Chicago show that nine cases of hardware corresponding in weight were shipped at New-York September 25, 1871, in ear No. 706 and receipted for in Chicago, October 5, 1871.

BILL NO. 1. New-York, Sept. 25, 1871.

Sent to F. W. Dicklasee, Supt. Repairs U. S. Marine Hospital hieugo, Itl.

The freight on the above invoice was \$17 15, and, as

appears by the memorandum at its close, was prepaid. Five days after the date of the bill copied above, and five days before the material was received in Chicago, Mr. Shepherd rendered the following account in Washington, and it was settled at the Treasury Department A copy of it was not sent to the superintendent of the building in Chicago until more than a year fafterward, and was received by him and entered on his books, Nov.

18, 1872:

VOUCHER NO. 1.

1871. U. S. to Alex. R. Shepherd, Treas.

Sept. 30 - 257 sheets copper, 1.085 fb. at 31 cents. \$338 35

35 sheets enter, 475 fb. at 35 cents. \$166 25

142 sheets extra size, 3.357 fb. at 35 cents. \$1.74 95

Tuning 257 sheets. at 18 cents. \$46 26

Tuning 142 extra size, at \$3 50. \$497 09

Tuning 35, at \$1 80. \$63 00 \$2,283 81

A careful comparison of these two exhibits will demon strate that they cover the same lot of material. For convenience of reference I place the separate items of each account side by sidely

VOUCHER. BILL | Neets | Ch | Ch | Ch | Ch | Copper | Lbs. | Got | 257 | 1,085 | 35 | 475 | 147 | 3,357 | Lbs. 128 257.....1,085 30c. 32e. 32e. 35..... 475 142.....3,357 142...

Thus it will be seen that, instead of making out the bills against the Government at the cost price, Mr. Shepherd "marked up" the price of the material from 3 to more than 10 per cent, and the price of tinning from 40 to 50 per cent, and I shall show, before I close this letter, that the Government paid his Company 15 per cent profit on the increased price.

The following is a copy of the second bill for material. It was shipped at New-York for Chicago by the "South Shore Line," Oct. 30, 1871, in car No. 6,193, and the eight boxes were received at Chicago Nov. 10, 1871.

BILL NO. 2.

Moustre. A. E. Shenherd & Bro., Washington, D. C.:

Bourht of Ansonia Brass and Couper Co., shipped per steamship line, freight prepaid, copper, tinned on both sides. 1 case, 116 sheets, 14x48, 14 oz., 488
1 case, 117 sheets, 14x48, 14 oz., 488
1 case, 117 sheets, 14x48, 14 oz., 494
1 case, 117 sheets, 14x48, 11 oz., 494
1 case, 117 sheets, 14x48, 11 oz., 494
1 case, 24 sheets, 24x50, 16 oz., 217-1 693 fb, at 30c., 350 7 90
Tinung 374 sheets. 12c. 44 88
1 case, 87 18 oz. sheathing cop., 457
1 case, 86 18 oz. sheathing cop., 452
1 case, 87 18 oz. sheathing cop., 452
1 case, 87 18 oz. sheathing cop., 452
1 case, 37 18 oz. sheathing cop., 452
1 case,

Copper ordered before alvance, 25 lb each size noils sent per express. Sent to F. W. Dickinson, Superintendent Repairs, Marine Hospital, On the 25th of November, 1871, the following account

was settled in Chicago:

U. S. to Alex. R. Shepherd, Treas, S. 1871. G. gross '4' inch capper screws at \$2.50. Express charges on same. 374 sheet 14-48. 14 er. copper, 1,693 ib at 32c. Thoing 373 sheets, 2 sides, 18c. Höldsheet 18 or. sheathing, 1,307, 32c. 250 ib No. 1 solder, 30c. 137 ib pig lead, Sc. 160 ib 1'4 inch capper nails, 48c. 100 ib 1'4 inch capper nails, 48c.	541 67 437 75 10 48	75 76 32 44 00 96 00
	\$1,244	

that the prices were all marked up as it case. For convenience I place the items side by side, VOUCHER. BILL. Pounds, Gov't.

374......1,693 30c. 374..... ...1 693 326 Tuning-Sheets. 374 12c. Tinning-Sheets., 374 Sheets
Sheetshing. Pounds. Price. Sheathing. Pounds. Pounds. Price. Sheathing. Pounds.1,367 30e. 260...........1,367 82c. Amount of bill......\$1,098 65 | Amount of bilt......\$1,244 23

The remainder of the bills for material are copied beow. It is proper to remark, however, that the most dilteent search of the records and books in the office of the Adams Express Company in Chicago fails to discover any trace of the copper covered by bill numbered five That bill is among those on file in Chicago, but the evidence is very conclusive that if the copper was ever shipped from New-York, about which there is some doubt, it was never received in Chicago and never used on the roof of the Marine Hospital. The books of the Adams Express Company show the receipt of the goods described in each of the remaining bills, and I have before me duplicates of the receipts given for them.

BILL, NO. 3.

Messrs. A. R. Shenherd Bros., Washington, D. C.
Bought of Assenia Brass and Copper Co., express freight prepaid,
Copper, timed both sides:

	226 60 67	24
	\$984	34
125 sheets, 14 oz., 14148, 527 fb 125 sheets, 14 oz., 14148, 528 fb 125 sheets, 14 oz., 14148, 522 fb 125 sheets, 14 oz., 14148, 525 fb 2,102 fb, at 30c., 30 sheets, 16 oz., 45x72, 707 fb, at 35c., 70 snng 500 sheets, at 12c., Tuning 30 sheets, at 12c.,	60	45 00
Sent to P. W. Dickinson, Supt. U. S. Marine Hospital,	1.005 Chicago	
BILL NO. 4		

Naw York, Jan. 25, 1872. Meners. A. R. Shepherd & Bros., Washington, D. C.
Bought of Amoula Bross and Copper Co. Adms Express.
250 sheets copper, thund both sides, 14 oz., 14x48, 1,058 a.
20c. 30e Tinning 250 sheets, 12e.....

19 80 On contract. Sent to F. W. Dickinson, Supt. C. S. Marine Hospital, Chicago, Ill.

BILL NO. S. EW-YORK, Feb. 29, 1872.

Messrs. A. R. Shepherd & Bro. Washington, D. C.
Bought of Annonia Brass and Copper Company, at New-York Agency.

Nos. 19 and 21 Cliff...

Addans Express freight prepaid. 1 case, 128 sheets copper, tioned both sides, 14 or., 14r48, 538 1 case, 128 sheets copper, thosed both sides, 14 or., 14r48, 533 1 case, 128 sheets copper, tinned both sides, 14 or., 14r48, 533 1 case, 128 sheets copper, tinned both sides, 14 or., 14r48, 533 2 case, 128 sheets copper, tinned both sides, 14 or., 14r48, 533 1 case, 128 sheets copper, tinned both sides, 14 or., 14r48, 536 2 case, 128 sheets at 12 cents. 61 44

Au old order. Shipped F. W. Dickinson, Superintendent United Inter Marine Hospital, Chicago, III. BILL NO. 6. New-York, March 18, 1872. Mesers, A. R. Shepherd & Bro., Washington, D. C.:

Bot. of Ansonia Brass and Copper Co., at New York Agency, 19 and
21 CHE-M.

125 sheats copper, timed both sides, 14148. 317 70 30 00 \$347 70

On contract. 2 cases sent to F. W. Dickinson, Superintendent U. S. Mar ac Hengits!, Chicago, III.

The prices of material covered by the last bills copied were "marked up," as in the two I have already compared, as I will presently show.

When the work on this roof began, the Superintendent was directed to keep an account of all the material and labor used in its construction, and to make a bill of them with the pay-rolls of all the men employed and a list of all the vouchers paid during the progress of the work "to enable the department to settle the account." On the 30th of March, 1872, Mr. W. S. Shepherd, representing the contractors, called at the office of the Superintendent of the building and made a bill of the material and labor expended on the work, and was furnished with pay-rolls of the men employed and a list of all vouchers paid so far as the Superintendent then knew. The following is a copy of the bill or memorandum as made out by Mr. Shepherd and signed by the Superintendent, who supposed that it covered all of the material 1.856 sheets roofing copper, 6,996 p made.
Tuning 1.896 sheets roofing copper, two sides.
84 sheets copper, 1.311 pounds.
Tuning 184 sheets copper, 1.311 pounds.
Tuning 184 sheets copper, 1.311 pounds rivets, 75 cents.
30 pounds bleet to page, 18 cents 2 pounds rivets, 75 cents.
30 pounds bleet tun, 50 cents, 300 bushels charcoal, 25 cents.
109 pounds bleet tun, 50 cents, 500 pounds tarres felt, 4 bc.
250 pounds solder, 30 cents, 50 pounds cents, 5 cents, 6 cents, 250 pounds there were, 56 cents, 2 group brase serves, 64 53, 30 pounds there iron, 54 cents, 2 pounds maintic acid, 20 cents.

Opening sheet Iron, 5 by cents; S pounds maintage acid, 2 the double cone reflector, the reflector with slide to order. Incredictor of the stress of t By amount of wages paid by F. W. Dickinson.\$332 00 The Superintendent also furnished Mr. Shepherd with

a list of all vouchers of which he had any knowledge which had been paid during the progress of the work. These included 15 small items, amounting to \$97 93, and voucher No. 2, copied in the earlier part of this letter. In May, 1872, Mr. Mullett demanded of the Superintendent a full report "to the 31st of March" of all material and labor expended on the building. As the voucher to be made from the above papers forwarded to the Department to settle, had not been returned for his signature, the Superintendent had no complete record on his books from which to make such a report in regard to the roof, and he replied that it would be impossible for him to complete the report until that voucher was returned for his signature and placed on the books of his office. After some delay a copy of the voucher was returned, and then it was discovered that it had already een paid and was signed by A. B. Mullett, Supervising Architect, without being sent to the Superintendent of

The United States
To Alex. R. Shopherd, Treasurer Vaux Patent Anti-Freezing Pipe a Roofing (a , on across t of the appropriation) Marine Hospital at Chicago, Di.

the building for his approval. The following is an exact

copy of this settlement voucher :

471 96 294 00 28 90 \$27 90.
To 250 ib solder; 30c., \$75: 50 ib resin. 5c., \$2 50; 29 ib copper wire; 55c., \$15 95.

To 2 trues briss arrews, \$4 55; 30 ib, sheet from at 5 9c., \$165; 8 ib mariatic send at 20c., \$1 60. 93 45 at 5 'ge, \$1 65; 8 lb mariate aculat 20c, \$1 60
To time-roil of workmen.

To 15 per cent, on material and labor above.
To 2 railrond fares from Milwanakee, Wis, to Checago, at \$3

March To 1 railrond fare from and to Wischester, Va., \$20 25

30. To 1 railrond fare from and to Mallson, Wis, \$5 10 6 00 30. To 1 railroad fare from and to Mailson, Wis. \$5 10 To 5 railroad fares from and to Washington, D. C., \$10 for the state of the state 97 50 65 00 348 15 .\$7,522 77

\$7,190 72 I certify that the articles above enumerated have been received and the services performed, that they were necessary for and have been, or will be applied to the construction of the Marine Hospital at Chicago, IL, and that the prices paid were just and reasonable. L. E. G. Approved,

W. A. Richardson. W. A. RUMARDON.
Assistant Secretary.
Received this ild day of June, 1872, from Thomas J. Hobbs. Disbursling Clerk, the rum of seven thousand one hundred and ninety dollars
and seventy-two cents, in full payment of the above account.

87,190 72. Signed in doplicate. ALEL E. SHEFFRED.
Treasurer.

Comparing the items of copper and tinning in-cluded in this voucher with those in the last four bills quoted above, it will be seen that the system of overcharging discovered in the first two vouchers settled runs through this also. The copper cost 30, 32, and 35 cents, the great bulk of it being at the first price, and only 30 sheets costing 35 cents. But the Government paid 32 cents for 1,866 sheets and 36 cents for 8t sheets. The prices for tinning are also raised 50 per cent. It will also be seen that the 15 per cent profit is charged on the increased prices. This being a small job, the aggregate amount stolen from the Government was only a few thousand dollars. But this same Company is covering the roofs of public buildings all over the country, and there is good reason to sup-

But the first thing that attracted the attention of those who had charge of the accounts of construction of the Marine Hospital in Chicago, when they received the above copy of settlement voucher, was tout certain moneys paid during the progress of the work had not been deducted. They supposed that the settlement voucher copied above covered all of the material and labor used, and they knew that there had previously been paid in Chicago, beside the pay-rolls for October and November, 1871, \$97 93 for 15 small items, \$1,244 23 as per voucher No. 2, and, as was afterward discovered, \$2,283 81 as per youcher No. 1. Those who had charge of the work believe that all of these sams ought to have been deducted, and they are sure that the first one, 197 93, could not have been otherwise accounted for, since the only statement of it was in the hands of the Superintendent until he gave it to Mr. W. S. Shepherd, and also because the material covered by this amount was charged for in the settlement voucher above given. The proof of the double payment of bills Nos. 1 and 2 is more circumstantial. It will be seen that the following words are indorsed down the left hand margin of the voucher: "Date, 1872. From Dec. 28, 1871, to March 30, 1872." This seems to exclude bills Nos. 1 and 2, settied previous to Dec. 28, 1871, as shown by youchers Nos. 1 and 2, although it does include pay-rolls for October and November, 1871. But, if the material paid for, as per vouchers Nos. 1 and 2, is not included in the settlement voucher, the amount of copper charged' to the Government is considerably greater than the amount purchased for this roof in New-York, even if we include in the latter bill No. 5, which is suspected to be bogus. The number of sheets covered by each bill is as follows: No. 1, 434; No. 2, 634; No. 3, 530; No. 4, 318; No. 5, 512 : No. 6, 250; total, 2,678. The number of sheets paid for by the United States was: By voucher No. 1, 434; voncher No. 2, 634; settlement voucher, 1,950; total, Here are 340 more sheets charged to the United States than were ever bought in New-York, and if we subtract the 512 sheets covered by bill No. 5 that were never received in Chicago, the number is swelled to 852. If, on the other hand, we suppose that all the copper used was accounted for in the settlement voucher (1,960 sheets), and compare that amount with the amount actually received in Chicago, as shown by the records of the transportation companies (2,166 sheets), we find that there was received 216 sheets more than was paid for in the settlement voucher. This would be very natural, since it would be impossible to tell in advance just how much copper it would take to cover the roof, and it would be necessary to ship more material that would ultimately be used. But it would, of course, be impossible to put more copper on the root

Another method of demonstrating that bills Nos. 1 and were twice paid for is by computing the number of squares which the copper purchased in New-York as shown by the original bills would cover. The following table shows that only 89 13-100 squares could be covered by this amount of copper, if we omit from the calculation the amount contained in bill No. 5, suspected to be bogus. If we add the amount included in that bill, the number of squares covered, not allowing for joints or waste, would be 113 2-100. The roof, as measured on the 30th of March, 1872, contained 91 squares, and that was the amount on which the Government originally paid

| Statement of symber and size of Sheets of Copper, as per original bills used. | Timed Timed Timed Timed Sheathing abeets. sheets. theets. theets. sheets. sh Total sheets 54 |24 35 172 1,607 274 71/2 10 13 221/3 41/5 45 Total square feet (itam)... 405 240 455 3,870 7,499 1,278

Total number of square feet of Timed Coper at above. 12 489 Square feet of flashings, without royalty by contract.... 3,550

Learing 89 13-100 squares of corrugated work with no allowance for in to or waste, which would hardly be less than 10 per cost.

The Law copper allow was used for "Down Spont" or conductor caree from prof, of which there was, measured after completion 1.4 10 quare feet, showing a waste of shrinkage in making of 108 square feet.

After attention had been called to the discrepancies in these statements, a new measurement of the roof was made, and this time it was reported as containing 161 squares, and Mr. Shepherd's Company received \$350 additional royalty. I don't know what the actual area of the roof is, but those who measured it, Marchipo, 1872, found only 91 squares of corrugated work. If there was 161 squares, the stupidity of all concerned in the first

measurement must have been very great.

All of the facts which I have recited have been repeatedly brought to the attention of the Secretary of the Treasury by a gentleman who accidentally learned them and thought that it was his duty to call attention to what he at first supposed was an error but which he now believes to have been a willful fraud. He has met with nothing but abuse. At last when he was introduced by a member of Congress, Secretary Etchardson referred the case to Assistant-Secretary Sawyer for examination. Mr. Sawyer agreed to examine the door ments and proofs and made an appointment with the gentleman who had possession of them to meet him for that purpose. When the gentleman met the Assistant Secretary according to appointment having with him sworn copies of the original bills, vouchers, freight bills, &c., he found awaiting him a letter prepared before one of the original doctuments had been examined. He, like every one else who has carefully looked over the proofs, is convinced not only that there is an extended system of frauds practiced upon the Government in connection with the roofing contract, but that the officials of the Treasury Department know it and aid and abet it. If everything in connection with this business was co rect, it would have been easy for the Secretary of the Treasury to have shown to the gentleman who brought the facts to his attention that he was mistaken, forithin gentleman did not at first charge or suspect fraud, but supposed he had simply discovered a clerical error which the Treasury Department would be very glad to have corrected. The treatment he received at the hands of the Secretary, and what he believes to have been a fraudulent second measurement of the roof for the purpose of covering up previous trauds which would be apparent from the vouchers on file in the Treasury Department, roused his suspicions and caused him to make the investigation the result of which is given in this letter. Coming here again fortified with documents, the Department refuses to look at his proofs, but pure him off with the letter referred to above, of which the following is a copy:

TREASURY DEFARTMENT
TREASURY TO THE TREASURY Fold. 17,

following is a copy:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, Feb. 17, 1814.

M. WHEELER, esq., Washington, D. C.

Sir: Your communication of the 9th inst. in reference to the settlements for the copper roofing of the Marine Hospital at Chicago, Ill., has been referred to Assistant Secretary Sawyer for examination, whose report thereon is as follows:

"I have examined the statements contained in the letter of Mr. Wheeler of the 9th inst. in reference to the settlements for the copper roofing of the Marine Hospital at Chicago, Ill., and have made a careful comparison of the same with the settlement vouchers, from which comparison I find that the charges made by him of double payments, over payments, rates of payment excess of contract, and, indeed, all his charges indicating maifeasance in office by the Supervising Architect, are not sestamed in any degree by the facts."

I must decline to furnish you coppes of any official documents on file in the Department in reference to this matter, as you are not within the scope of the rules of the Department entitled tacreto, nor do the circumstances warrant any departure from the rules in time particular case. Very respectfully,

WM. A. RICHARDSON, Secretary.

particular case. Very respectfully, WM. A. RICHARDSON, Secretary. The importance of this case does not lie in the amount

of money involved, for it is small, but in the fact that this same company has been engaged in roefing buildings for the United States for years, and still continues to do so, and, if fraud runs throug a all their contracts, the aggregate amount of money stolen from the Gov ernment must be very great.

SOUTH CAROLINA MISRULE.

NEED OF INVESTIGATION BEFORE CONGRESS. HELP MUST COME FROM THE LEADERS AT THE NORTH-HONEST VOTERS IN A SLOUGH OF DE-SPOND - ORGANIZED CORRUPTION IN POLITICS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: As indicated by the memorial of the Tax-payers' Convention recently assembled at Columbia South Carolina now appeals to the Republican party of the North for assistance in throwing off the yoke which now threatens to annihilate the prosperity of the State. Until the press helps to create a better understanding o the existing condition of affairs in this State, the moderate men of either party can do but little to retriev

the errors of the past. The great mass of the colored race are not responsible for the existing state of affairs. Instead of being bene fited, they are materially injured; but, being ignorant and poor, they depend for information and instruction as regards all political matters on their leaders. They are faught to believe that these leaders are in full accord with the great Republican party, to which they are indebted for freedom. Their organization into pose that the system of overcharging is practiced in every case. If this is true, the plunder assumes respect-county a small clique regulates everything in their own interest, and a pressure is brought to bear on any who may be dissafisfied that soon brings them back into line. The perquisites of office are such as to warrant the lead-

ers in a liberal expenditure to retain power. Could the rank and file of this well-drilled army be once convinced that the leaders who now comprise " the Ring" are not supported by the Federal Government and the Republican party of the North, they would exercise their own judgment in selecting candidates for office. No arguments can influence them is opposition to their fealty to the Republican party. The unloading process must be begun at Washington. As long as the Ring can influence the appointment of Federal officers in this State they can command the negro vote. In Charleston Mr. Trott, a moderate Republican, who enjoyed the confidence of the whites to such an extent that nineteen-twentieths of them other than the most ultra of the office-holders were urgent to retain him, was displaced and a colored man substituted in his place simply as a political measure. So efficient had Mr. Trott been that the whites would have preferred him to a Democratic appointee—were such an appoint-ment possible. In this district, when the census was being taken, the writer of this, in making his returns, gave in answer to one of the queries the sum of \$15,000. Noticing that the marshal had entered it as \$1,500, he called attention to the error, when the marshal replied that it made no difference, as he had a clerk to correct mistakes; nor did the marshal after the figures. These

are not isolated illustrations.

Such a large proportion of the se-called Republicat Such a large proportion officials, whether carpet-baggers, scalawags, or negroes, have proved wanting in principle that moderate men are deterred from affiliating with them, and Northern Republicans who have settled in this State, and who respect themselves, are driven from the ranks of the party. Thousands are ready and more than willing to cooperate with any party that will give them an honest administration of affairs. Why not, then, mix with the negroes in their primary assemblies and nominate others ! It is utterly useless to attempt to change the negro vote until the Republicans of the North emphatically disavow the acts of the Ring, and in such a manner

cally disavow the acts of the Ring, and in such a manner as will reach the comprehension of the nervo. R. B. Elliott is now urring a referm of the party. But when it is recollected that two years aco be by his influence placed Frank Moses in the gubernatorial chair, knowing at that time the character of Moses, and promising for Moses and his clique an honest administration, it is not to be wondered that ne does not enjoy the confidence of the thinking portion of the community. A great obstacle to reform is the fact that the whites of this State nave so organization—none of the party machinery so effectual in determining elections. Before the war, political contests were generally decided by the personal popularity of the respective candidates. There was a saying that "when John C. Calhoon took souff, all South Carolina sneezed." Now, the name of R. Elliott, among the majority, might be substituted for that of Calhoon.

While the appointment of incompetent partisans serves. White the appointment of incompetent partisans serve

While the appointment of incompetent partisans serves to consolidate the negro vote, it discourages the effort of moderate men. To use a cant phrase, the people are under the huck" and need encouragement. Since the war, both whites and blacks have an exagerated idea of the bower of the Federai Government. The fill effects are not confined simply to squandering the tax money and issuing bogus bonds and pay-certificates. They are killing the goose that lays the golden eggs, effectually retarding progress, and preventing energetic men from embarking in enterprises which would develop the latent resources of the State. Did space permit, innumerable evidences of this could be adduced. Were the South more prosperous, there would be a larger demand for the monificatured wares of the North, and a larger proportion of the Federal expenses would be borne by this section. To await the slow operation of educating the more ignorant to a proper sense of their duty and interest will enable the King to ruin the State irretrievably. The immediate action of Congress and the Northero press is of the unmost importance. Time enough has now clapsed for the passious (on both sides) ensendered by the war to be allayed. The report of an univassed Committee, appointed by Congress to invostigate matters here, would have an immediate effect in influencing not only the mass of the people, but is restraining the Ring. This Committee should consult and take evidence from all parties, and not act merely in a partison spirit to whitewash the so-called Republicans of this State. In this way a foundation would be laid for the renovation of the State.

Aiken, S. C., March, 14, 1874. Aiken, S. C., March 14, 1874

GENERAL NOTES.

A consterfeiter of mickel coin, only 17 years f age, has been arcested in Franklin, Ill. Galveston is the only town in Texas which

has asked to be supplied with postal cards. The maple sugar yield in New-Hampshire

his year is reported to be unusually large. The Seniors of Anherst College have de-

termined to dispense entirely with Class Day. At a recent funeral in Madison, Conn., all he six pall-bearers were of the same mause.

Dr. Schmidt of the University of Athens, fter St years of labor, has completed a map of the moon A Chicago lady, with a turn for the fine

ris, recently ordered in writing " One marble figger of The Opera House in Lafayette, Ind., is to be ont up in a lottery. As it don't draw, it will have to be

A Missouri man has offered to live 40 days

According to The Canden (Me.) Herald, an ancher weighing 4,500 tons has recently been forged in The ladies of Leavenworth are signing a

dedge "to use no more newspapers except as men us At a late revival meeting in Mystic, Conn.

prayers and remarks were offered by 201 persons, and 50 nymns were sung. The man in Boston who obtained a Bible

inder false pretenses has gone to the House of Correc-It has been discovered in New-Jersey that an

excellent article of whishy can be made of " saw-dust, an, and molasses." The tobacco-pipe which solaced Miles Stand-

ish 254 years ago, is now in possession of a gentleman in New Bedford, Mass. The Council of Jeffersonville, Ind., has

eased a most string of ordinance making it penal for eye to loaf in grou-hops. Mrs. Phobe Cummings Bailey of Dover, N.

H., was the great-great-grand-daughter of Longfello A vote to decide whether the Liquor Agency should be abolished in Lisbon, Me., resulted in a tie, to the great relief of invalids.

A very old gentleman in Calhoun Co., Ill., who feared a screnade from the boys, was recently man nea privately in the woods, A gentleman in Pottsville, Penn., has named

his dog "Penny," because it was one cent to hit has had 10 mills with the car. A colored man was found dead in Arkansas

county, Ark., lately, with three dead welves lying near im—one of them still in his grip. According to The Spirit Lake (Iowa) Beacon had there has won a bet of half a deltar by swallowing an live minnows within 30 minutes.

A big mortgage was that recently filed in Chicago of Potter Paimer to the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company for \$1,714,600. A husband and wife in Evansville, Ind.,

ave each nine children of their own, and yet there are ally twelve children in the fatmity. The latest action for damages is one against a Virginia railway company for running over a rooster The fury gave the plaintiff \$25.

Four kittens in New-Bedford, Mass., joined forether like the Slaucse twins, were at the last accounts arive and tolerably well.

For 40 years Charles Holden of Portland Me., has served upon the School Committee without compensation, and he now retires.

The school-house in Dublin, N. H., is reported to be "one unite from any human habitation, and

Are we to believe that a widower in Saratoga county made his second a bridal present of his de parted angel's teeth, gold plate and all ! A young lady in Westfield, Mass., straggled

so hard to suppress a succe) that one side of her face became paralyzed and permanently distorted. A town in Maine has "voted that the asses-

sors assess \$1 on each dog kept in town, and any dog that does not pay shall be shot by the town arent " Idaho is the most crooked bordered of the Western provinces, and it is proposed to square it by annexing a strip of it on the north to Washington Torri-

It has been decided by an Iowa jury that when an engagement in marriage is broken off all the pretty things must be returned or their value in money. A law court in Iowa has fined a farmer \$20,

secause he made his son turn a grindstone 16 consecu tive hours, for going home with an old maid from a singing school. Uneasy lies the fair head of the botel girl in Terre Haute who has inherited \$40,000 in gold, for by all the aspiring young men of those parts she is persus-ently screnaded.

A man of no principle has been detected in Booncaboro', Iowa, in predicing "Reverend" to be name in giving orders for books, thereby securing an

A burglar at Fort Smith, Ark., on leaving a house which he had robbed of \$200, stepped into a bucket p under the window, so that he was cash; cked and captured.

Men who are hangry for damages should take warning from the inck of a Cinciunati man. He was ailed a "dead beat" and the jury say that it hurt bim not seven cents' worth.

In 17 days the schooner Lizzie Clark of Gioneester, Mass., made a trip to the Grand Banks, took abourd 85,810 pounds of halibut, worth \$4,676, and got back to her port all well.

The doctors of Cleveland, Ohio, have united in a public statement that alcohol is rarely useded as a medicine, and that " the most perfect health is compati-ble with total abstractic." The powder horn which Abraham Lincoln's

father were when he was killed by the Indians is in possession of an old gentieman in Beechland, Ky. It has carred upon it a snake, a square and compass, with the legend, "Liberty or Death." There is a school district in Maine where the 24 pupils are all the teacher's second cousins, and each is brother, sister, or cousin of every other pupil. This is what may be called a family school.

Some melancholy man with a turn for arithmetic has calculated that the people who died by Philadelphia last year would have made a procession nutle long, marching ten abreas

They are now building, at Marine City, what is to be the largest steamship employed in the Lake grain service. When florshed, she will measure 2.200 tons, with a carrying capacity of about the mane thoulat, with a draft of only 14 feet, and when light will only draw six feet of water on an even kent. At a meeting of the Society for the Preven-

tion of Cracity to Animals in Liverpool last mouth, the Rev. Alexander Stewart proposed to try a little severity with those guitty of mattreating damb creatures. He thought that only flogging would bring home to them a sense of the gravity of their offense. The Memphis Appeal corrects a statement, recently made in THE TERRINE, that one dry-goods firm

to that city imports at its, lace curtains, and other foreign products direct from Europe, and says: "Instead of one we have several tirms that do this, and before two years are over we hope to have a street full of them." As an illustration of the immense bovine esources of Texas, it is stated that one breeder there

bonsts that he will have 75,000 calves to brand this sea-son. He says that he branded 63,000 last year, and 70,000 the year preceding. Compare this with a New England barn-yard, with its two cows and yoke of oxen! The famous old frigate Constitution, whose

flag "has braved a bundred years the battle and the hay now the property of the pr An Ohio newspaper is horrified to find that the "groceries" are a good deal more than "the harm-less depositories of coulish and wash-broshes." That the

"sable and alluring bottle nestles beneath the counters, and if a customer, stier purchasing a bunch of shoe-strings or a fish-book, feels as though an encourager, with or without sugar, would make a new man of him, he can get it at any of those modest marks of trade." The Troy Press chronicles a case of cool and daring heroism, and the rescue of a woman who was prostrated, by fright, across a ratiroad track, on seeing

locomotive rushing toward her, in the following words: "Keys jumped off his engine, caught the prostrate woman in his arms, and stepped back from the track in the very second that the train whistled by. Ha placed the woman in the station, and jumped abourd his own train, which had been stopped by the fireman for him, and started off when all was well."

A car loaded with cattle "jumped" the track on the bridge which crosses the river just above Rochester Falls, and planged with its living freight into the rapids. The railroad authorities held an auction on the spot, and disposed of the lot, 17 in all, for \$250. The purchasers then, by means of ropes, brought the cattle, one after another, into the swift current, when they were hurled over the fulls. Only five of the animals came out alive, and each of these, as he came to the surface of the turoulent waters and sir ick out for shore, was greeted by the shouts and cheers of over 15,000 poorbe.